

# TELE-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE



**Telemedicine** is the use of telecommunication and information technology as a mode for delivery of **health care services at a distance**. The effective use of telemedicine can increase access to health care, reduce health disparities, and create efficiencies in health care delivery with a total impact of improving the delivery of health care services while reducing costs.



**The Massachusetts Legislature directed the Health Policy Commission to conduct a regional pilot to study the impact of using telemedicine for consultation, diagnosis, and treatment of patient care. The results of this initiative will inform and support policy development and highlight innovative delivery models.**

**PURPOSE:** To expand behavioral health access for 1) children and adolescents; 2) adults aging in place; or 3) individuals with substance use disorders.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Health Care Providers (including a broad array of provider-types) or Payers and their partners who serve a shared population.

**AWARD:** Two to three awards of up to \$500,000 for 18 months, including planning and implementation. Total funding opportunity is \$1,000,000.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** The value of telemedicine is in meeting patients where they are, sometimes outside of a traditional healthcare setting. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with community-based organizations, such as schools, home-based care organizations, and social service organizations, as well as telemedicine service providers to deliver behavioral health services safely and effectively.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** Proposals will be evaluated based on the estimated impact on behavioral health access; patient experience, provider satisfaction, and continuity of care; evidence for service model; operational capacity for telemedicine; and on value.



**2-3 awards of up to \$500,000 each**



**RFP release in February  
Awards in late Spring 2016**



**Must serve children and adolescents; older adults aging in place; or individuals with substance use disorder**



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